

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.- 38. (Canceled).

39. (NEW): A tire comprising a rubber composition comprising at least a diene elastomer, a reinforcing inorganic filler, and a coupling agent providing the bond between the reinforcing filler and the elastomer, wherein said inorganic filler comprises at least one silica having all the following characteristics:

- a) a BET specific surface area of between 45 and 400 m²/g;
- b) a CTAB specific surface area of between 40 and 380 m²/g;
- c) an average particle size (by mass), d_w , of 20 to 300 nm;
- d) a particle size distribution such that

$$d_w \geq (16,500 / \text{CTAB}) - 30;$$

- e) a porosity which meets the criterion

$$L / \text{FI} \geq -0.0025 \text{ CTAB} + 0.85;$$

- f) an amount of silanols per unit of surface area, $N_{\text{SiOH/nm}^2}$,

$$N_{\text{SiOH/nm}^2} \leq -0.027 \text{ CTAB} + 10.5.$$

40. (NEW): The tire according to claim 39, said silica having a BET specific surface area of between 80 and 300 m²/g and a CTAB specific surface area of between 70 and 280 m²/g.

41. (NEW): The tire according to claim 40, said silica having a BET specific surface area of between 130 and 300 m²/g and a CTAB specific surface area of between 120 and 280 m²/g.

42. (NEW): The tire according to claim 39, said silica having BET and CTAB specific surface areas, S_{BET} and S_{CTAB}, which satisfy the relationship (S_{BET}-S_{CTAB}) ≥ 5 m²/g.

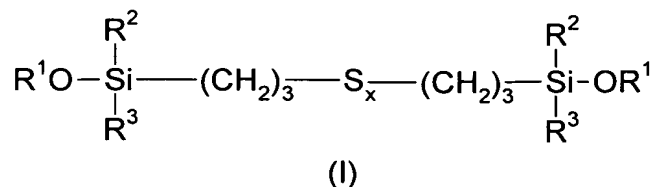
43. (NEW): The tire according to claim 42, said silica having BET and CTAB specific surface areas which satisfy the relationship (S_{BET}-S_{CTAB}) < 50 m²/g.

44. (NEW): The tire according to claim 39, said silica having a disagglomeration rate, α, measured by means of an ultrasound disagglomeration test in pulse mode (1 s ON, 1 s OFF), at 100% power of a 600 W ultrasound probe, of at least 0.0035 μm⁻¹.mn⁻¹.

45. (NEW): The tire according to claim 39, wherein said composition further comprises carbon black in an amount of between 2 and 20 phr.

46. (NEW): The tire according to claim 45, wherein the amount of carbon black is in a range of from 5 to 15 phr.

47. (NEW): The tire according to claim 39, wherein said coupling agent is selected from the group consisting of the polysulphurized alkoxysilanes of the formula (I):



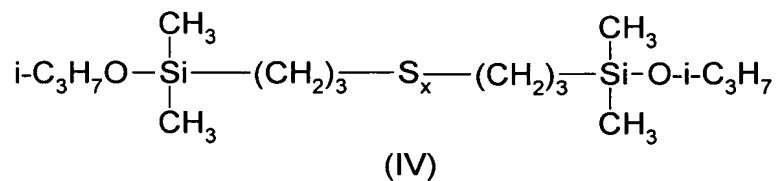
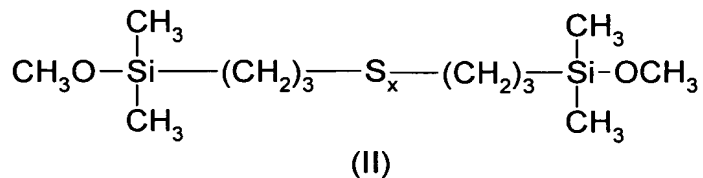
wherein:

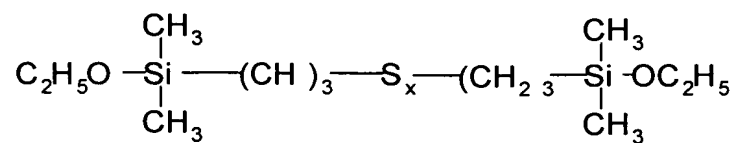
R^1 , which may be identical or different, each represents a monovalent hydrocarbon group selected from the group consisting of straight-chain and branched alkyls having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and straight-chain and branched alkoxyalkyls having from 2 to 8 carbon atoms;

R^2 and R^3 , which may be identical or different, each represents a monovalent hydrocarbon group selected from the group consisting of straight-chain and branched alkyls having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and phenyl; and

x is an integer or fraction of between 3 and 5.

48. (NEW): The tire according to claim 47, wherein said coupling agent is selected from the group consisting of the polysulphurized alkoxyasilanes of the formulae (II), (III) and (IV):





(III)

49. (NEW): The tire according to claim 48, wherein said coupling agent is monoethoxydimethylsilylpropyl tetrasulphide of formula $[(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{O})(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{Si}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{S}_2]_2$.

50. (NEW): The tire according to claim 39, wherein said rubber composition is present in the tread of the tire.